



National Voters' Day being celebrated across the country

The 15th National Voters' Day is being celebrated across the country on 25th January 2025. President Droupadi Murmu will attend the main function in New Delhi.

- ❖ The theme, 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure,' encourages voter participation and pride in exercising their right to vote, continuing last year's focus.
- ❖ Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar emphasized the importance of National Voters' Day as a celebration of democracy and the Election Commission's 75 years of service.
- ❖ India's record-breaking voter turnout of 64.6 crore in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 55th Statehood Day

Himachal Pradesh is celebrating its 55th Statehood Day on 25th January. On this day in 1971, Himachal was carved out as an 18th state and got full statehood.

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh was initially formed as a union territory in 1948 by merging 30 princely states. It attained full statehood status in 1971 under the State of Himachal Pradesh Act, 1971.
- ❖ On the occasion, the Chief Minister will also inaugurate development projects worth more than 70 crore rupees at Baijnath.

About Himachal Pradesh:

- ❖ Summer Capital: Shimla
- ❖ Winter Capital: Dharamshala
- ❖ Chief Minister (CM): Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- ❖ Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla
- ❖ Important Tribal Groups: Gaddis, Kinnauris, Lahaulis, Gujjars and Bhotiyas.

Micheal Martin confirmed as new Ireland Prime Minister.

Micheal Martin, leader of Fianna Fail, has been confirmed as the Prime Minister of Ireland.

- ❖ 64-year-old Martin was Prime Minister of Ireland between 2020 and 2022 before handing the leadership to Fine Gael for the second half of the term.
- ❖ Under the deal between the two parties, outgoing Prime Minister Simon Harris is set to return as premier in late 2027.

About Ireland:

- ❖ Capital: Dublin
- ❖ Currency: Euro (€)
- ❖ Biggest City: Dublin

Nepal hosts 1st International Pashmina Festival cum Exhibition

Nepal hosted its first three-day International Pashmina Festival cum Exhibition, organized by the Nepal Pashmina Industries Association and the Confederation of Nepalese Industries.

- ❖ The festival highlights Chyangra Pashmina, a high-quality and authentic product from Nepal.
- ❖ The event emphasizes traditional craftsmanship and the global appeal of Nepali Pashmina.

Abu Dhabi, Dubai to be connected by rail

A high-speed train project connecting Abu Dhabi and Dubai in just 30 minutes was announced by Etihad Rail.

- ❖ The train will travel at speeds of up to 350 km/h, dramatically reducing travel times and enhancing connectivity between the two emirates.
- ❖ The project is estimated to contribute Dh145 billion to the UAE's GDP over the next 50 years.
- ❖ UAE leaders unveiled the first passenger train fleet capable of speeds up to 200 km/h, with four initial stations planned in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, and Fujairah.

NITI Aayog launches the "Fiscal Health Index 2025" in New Delhi

The Hon'ble Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, Dr. Arvind Panagariya, launched the inaugural issue of NITI Aayog's report titled "Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025" on 24th January 2025 in New Delhi.

- ❖ The report provides a comprehensive assessment of the fiscal health of 18 major States, based on five key sub-indices: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability, along with insights into state-specific challenges and areas for improvement.
 - ❖ The FHI aims to throw light on the fiscal status at the sub-national level and guide policy reforms for sustainable and resilient economic growth.
 - ❖ The report ranks States on the basis of composite fiscal index, which is based on five major sub-indices viz, quality of expenditure, revenue mobilisation, fiscal prudence, debt index, and debt sustainability.
- ❖ With a cumulative score of 67.8, Odisha tops the ranking in fiscal health among 18 major States, followed by Chhattisgarh and Goa with scores of 55.2 and 53.6, respectively.
 - ❖ CEO, NITI Aayog: Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam.
 - ❖ The Chairman of NITI Aayog is the Prime Minister of India.
 - ❖ The Vice Chairman and CEO of NITI Aayog manage day-to-day operations, with the Vice Chairman acting as the functional head of the institution.



PW Web/App: <https://smart.link/7wwosivoicgd4>

For more such content, subscribe to our Telegram Channel https://t.me/pw_upsc